

Paintings usually hang on walls for us to look at and enjoy. Some paintings, like portraits, are more than just for decoration. Portraits are often full of messages for the viewer and some messages are even hidden.

Let's look at the image of the Mary Queen of Scots Memorial Portrait.

1. On the left is a small scene showing Mary's death. Who do you think the people are?
2. Why do you think there is there someone writing?
3. What do you think he might be writing?
4. Do you think any of the people are Mary's friends? Why?
5. How was Mary executed? How do you know this?

6. Why is Mary is carrying a bible and crucifix (cross)?

7. A martyr is someone who is killed because of his or her religious beliefs. Mary was considered a Catholic martyr. Do you see anything in the execution scene that might tell you this?

8. What do you think the writing on the painting says? Why would it be there?

9. A coat of arms is a symbol that can represents a group, family, or area. Do you see the coat of arms on the painting? What does it look like? Do you know what this coat of arms means?

10. Who are the ladies on the far right of the painting? Why is one of them very important?